

# The Boy Puzzle

By DR. J. S. KIRTLEY



## His Failings

His failings are exclusively his. He owns them but seldom owns up to them. Some are due to his immaturity and will disappear with the passing of mumps and measles and warts and freckles and gossamer feathers—unless they are detained by some foolish older person who insists that passing phases of his development are permanent forms of devilment and succeed in turning the changing hues into fast colors, all red. That boy showed his quality who defined a hypocrite as "a boy who comes to school with a smile on his face." When the nervous Sunday school teacher said to the mischievous lad, "Tommie, I'm afraid I won't see you in heaven," it was due entirely to his sense of humor, that had not yet gained its social perspective and propriety, that he asked, without hesitation, "why, what have you been doing?"

Some are due to his being an immature human, some due to his being an immature man and, in the latter case, will not slough off at all. We will have to classify them as among his unavoidable limitations not to be outlawed, but to be harnessed up and put to work, drawing his personality through bogs and over mountains. We are not to look on them as hopeless liabilities but as productive endowments. And yet they will always be idiosyncrasies, if not faults.

Some of his faults are imaginary, exist only in the mind of those who look upon these ebullitions of his boyish nature as streams of vice and as indication of hopeless depravity. The best things in him may come out just that way. That effervescence is designed to be a relief to him and a recreation to the family. The only alternative of effervescence is fermentation. Imagine him bad and you are sure to tell him so. And there is a very accommodating suggestibility in a boy. He is usually slow to accept the rating he is given, when he is well berated, yet he often unconsciously lives down to the reputation he is given in his home.

But many of his failings are real, whether due to inheritance or bad general environment or bad treatment. In almost every case it is not his fault at first. Dr. Merrill is almost exactly right in saying that the boy is all right and that the problem of the bad boy is the problem of those who have him in charge. The parents ought to confess the handicap they put on him in giving him their dispositions and then get to work to save him from the natural consequences of it, till he can be led to choose something higher and better for himself.

And if his inherited disposition is not so hopelessly bad, he may be tempted into badness by the public. The city life is in an environment created for business purposes and not with a view to his interests. Every fault of a boy seems to be appealed to in the average city, with its crowded homes and poor playgrounds, and the appeals to both his love of wholesome pleasure and of money with which to pay for them. Sometimes he is suddenly overwhelmed in the results of some blunder that he never meant to be a crime which is construed as a crime and he is made a criminal.

There are crime ages, when every boy finds it easier to do wrong, and a surprising amount of outside assistance in doing it. The running away age is from six to eight, the lawless age from eight to twelve, and then the sense of law begins to awaken in response to the laws of the gang. During those critical days, it is criminal and often fatal to be irritable with him. His boyhood weaknesses aid the temptations—gluttony, vanity and often laziness. All the crudities and contradictions make him more open to evil. Imitation and imagination and, later, the development of the sex instincts all seem on the side of temptation; and they are, unless he is well cared for.

And yet nature has made provision for his protection and a special providence aids those who are responsible for him. He has no reinforcing memories of former victories, though he is accumulating them, yet his father has them and holds them for his benefit. He has a yearning for companionship and his father has been elected to supply him with all he needs.

Sometimes the sense of being injured is so acute and so just, he is borne beyond all self-control and eventually becomes a hardened man, if not a criminal. When some evil deed sweeps him off his feet, he only needs some one to help him back to self-respecting, yet self-distrusting, purity. He needs to be told of his virtues and supported by an admirable and contagious example. If the home were half way right, also the schools, also the public in its provisions for the physical and mental and artistic and ethical welfare of children, there would be no bad boys, for heredity would soon become as correct as environment.

## Organizing the Boy

It is easier to organize boys than any other kind of business. They are standing around waiting to be organized into almost any kind of band that they or their kind friends can think of, for almost any kind of purpose boys can be used for. The boy has the honor of having inspired as many "movements" as any one of the other groups in whose behalf the various historic movements have been started—Young Men, Young Women, Women, Young People, Men and the rest. He also has the satisfaction of having precipitated a "crisis," now and then, of more or less large dimensions, and he can get up a local "crisis" any morning, before he gets up himself. He was the main child in the "Children's Crusade," centuries ago, and he almost started the modern Sunday school movement, single handed and alone.

He can excite more kinds of interest than anyone else and a great deal of anxiety as well. For him all kinds of factories are at work, with day and night shifts, turning out shoes and caps and pants and medicine and surgical instruments and school books and doctors and teachers and bread and meat and musical instruments and sweethearts and all the other products needed by him in his all-absorbing business of being a boy. He is an unconscious patron of all the industries and starts a few himself.

But of all the lines of business which his presence with us has stimulated, that of organizing him as one of the most flourishing. And he needs all we have ever done for him, and more. But what is more to the point, he likes it even better than we do.

Something like twenty years ago the Boys' Brigade was started for his benefit and served with great effectiveness. It caught hold of him by his military and military ligaments, put regimentals on him and held him to a course of instruction in the manual of arms and field practice, as a soldier of righteousness. It failed to address itself to all his interests or addressed them in a defective way, and it has gone. But each movement, as it passed, left him a wiser and better equipped boy and left its place vacant for another movement, still better adapted to his needs. Local modifications of the main ideas are still used effectively. The "Knights of King Arthur" with each lodge a castle, founded by Dr. Forbush of Boston, is popular in the east. The "Order of the American Boy" is a growing organization. The "Beton-Woodcraft Indians," started by Ernest Thompson Seton, has some vogue. Dan Beard's

## NEAR ARTIFICIAL LIFE

Baltimore Scientist and Wife Have Worked Wonders.

Discover Culture of Living Cells in Fluid of Known Chemical Composition—Regarded as Remarkable Accomplishment.

Baltimore, Md.—As a result of constant concentration and untiring efforts in the field of research Dr. Warren H. Lewis and his wife, Mrs. Margaret Reed Lewis, the former an associate professor of anatomy in Johns Hopkins medical school, have discovered the culture of living cells in a fluid of known chemical composition. Dr. Lewis has been experimenting on the chick in the embryonic condition for some time. By experiment he has finally succeeded in proving that it is possible to cause the growth of cellular substance, of which all animals and plants are made up, in saline solutions without the aid of nourishment. The cells, it is believed, make use of food stored up within them.

This is considered a remarkable accomplishment for which scientific men have striven for years. It was not until about 1830 that the cell theory was discovered, and since that time there have been many new developments. The theory up to the time of Dr. Lewis' discovery was that animals and plants generate from pre-existing cells and do not rise spontaneously, and this theory has generally been accepted. The object Dr. Lewis had in mind was the more complete and detailed study of different kinds of cells. For this purpose he took part of the intestines, heart, liver, eye and brain, and inserted it in solutions of different salts of a known density.

He found that cells would grow in distilled water with eight-hundredths of one per cent. of salt. He also found that the development of the cells would be better if four-hun-

## NEW CRUSADE AGAINST TOBACCO



REV. JENKIN LLOYD JONES of Chicago and Dr. Harvey W. Willey, chief of the government bureau of chemistry, have united in a new crusade against tobacco smoking in public places, including even the streets. The divine is one of the organizers of the Nonsmokers of America and Dr. Willey has become one of the most enthusiastic and outspoken members of that organization. Dr. Willey believes the crusade is in line with the general advance in sanitary ideas and will work the same sort of good that the crusade against expectorating on sidewalks and in buildings and street cars did.

dreaths of one per cent. of potassium chloride was added to the solution, and still better if some nutrition, such as sugar, was supplied.

As a result of his experiments not only did the existing cells enlarge, but the actual formation of new cells took place without the aid of the network that is found in the plasma, which heretofore was considered necessary. Not only the regular formation of muscle fiber was brought about, but also delicate nerve tissue was formed. Dr. Lewis stated that if the specimen under examination was magnified 1,000,000 times the actual growth of the fiber could be seen.

There is one further step toward which scientists look, and that is

## Manifestation of God

By Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden  
Pastor of First Church,  
Columbus, Ohio.

TEXT.—Howbeit, we know this man, whence he is, but when Christ cometh, no man knows whence He is.—John 7:27.

The fact that Jesus remained in Galilee while his disciples went to Jerusalem to attend the feast of the tabernacles aroused much discussion among the people. Suddenly in the midst of the talk, Jesus appeared, and began to address the gathering with the utmost frankness. At this those present were greatly surprised and many were half inclined to believe in him. However, they said that there is nothing wonderful, occult or mysterious about this man. We know him, he is the son of Joseph, the carpenter, and Mary. Therefore, he cannot be the Christ, for when he comes no one will know of him. The suggestion that this man about whom there was no suggestion of the preternatural or mysterious was the Christ offended the good people who were looking for their Savior's coming. There was no thought of the nobility of character, the power of action, or the holiness of the life that would fit the man to lead God's chosen people, but that he was too commonplace to be God's messenger.

This error is common, even today in the age of advanced learning and reasoning. A great truth stated in plain, comprehensible, unvarnished words, will oftentimes fail to impress the hearer, when a lot of high-sounding phrases, possibly meaningless, will give a conviction of depth of thought and power of expression. In fact, one of the most popular books of the day has won its laurels in this manner. Throughout the ages the world has been humbugged by those who played on this preconception of wisdom.

The real truth when it comes to us is almost always just the reverse of this thought. It is simple, easily understood, with no suggestion of the mysterious, occult or profound. Thus we find that the people are wrong in the main part, for the best messages and ideas are often conferred in the simplest of terms and come from the common man or woman. It is indeed well to be hospitable in the entertaining of strangers, for they may turn out to be angels of God. Abraham in entertaining the three travelers found that they brought to him God's mission on earth for him. Lot, at the gate of Sodom, welcomed the footsore wanderers, who warned him of the destruction of the city. Not every angelic visitation has been made in this simple manner, but it is enough for us that many of the important ones have.

To date all the progress made along lines of religious development have tended to simplify and to make more plain the ways of God. Browning in his prologue to "Osceola" has stated very beautifully that man has stripped the covering of mystery from the trees, the mountains and the lakes, but that in doing so, it has brought him into closer touch with the Lord. God is indeed revealed in bare nature. His truth is shown in the phenomena despoiled of their mystery and illusion. To those who go beyond the mere phenomena, and get into their meaning, God is far more wonderful than to those who regard him simply as the ruler of all things. If we could see and hear completely, we would be certain that all around us are revelations of God. The every-day friendships of the office, the shop, the home, are many voices crying the will and love of the Lord.

To return to the story, we find that the people at the feast still believed that there was a Christ to come, and this faith is commendable. Had they believed that this man was the Messiah, that the divine had transfigured the human and that the human had not dragged down the divine, they would have grasped the great truth in the matter. The secular is the shrine of the sacred and not its grave. God's love reaches out and through human love does great things, at the same time completely changing the latter. To some unfortunate people the destroying of the mysterious by science has also taken away God. That is a grievous loss. All the deeper, diviner influences that reach the human life are as active now as they ever were. We still need inspiration from above, encouragement and love which can be found only through God. All that tends to dignify and to make beautiful the common and natural things is God, and to fail to sense the great love of God is to fail to secure a working foundation for life and for eternity. Losing God's love, we lose that which our best natures demand and need.

The thought that angels may appear in the garb of the common, every-day traveler or worker is the beginning of wisdom, but not its end. In order to complete the thought we must hear the message brought and then go out and apply it to our lives, do the task demanded and grow bigger. Then, even as angels appear as one of us, so we as common people of the earth can do the work of angels. What are angels save messengers and workers for God? In this we find the real meaning of Christian discipleship.

The Perfect World.

A world without suffering and sacrifices, would soon become a world without heroism. And a world perfectly and always happy, would be a world perfectly and always dead.—Rev. J. H. White, Baptist, Atlanta.

## HIGH CURRENT DISEASES

Many Wireless Operators Suffering With Toothach

Prediction is Made That System Will Cause Other Nervous Disorders Among Those Who Expose Themselves.

New York.—Wireless toothache, due to the high tension electrical currents produced in sending wireless messages, is the latest disease discovered by New York physicians, and it is said hundreds of wireless operators, professional and amateur, in this city and its neighborhood, are suffering from it. Prediction also is made that the heavy currents discharged by the wireless telegraph will produce other nervous diseases among those who expose themselves too much to such phenomena. There perhaps are thousands of amateur wireless operators in New York city. Investigation discloses that many of them have had toothache since they began their wireless studies and experiments. What other diseases of nervous sort have followed in the wake of the current only will be revealed by scientific investigation.

A prominent European physician discovered the wireless toothache, and the bad effect of the high tension currents on the nerves of his patients. He predicts there will be a general increase of nervous ailments, due to that cause. That physician says the nervous elements are affected so by the currents that a low grade neuritis is produced which progresses according to each patient's general physical condition, hygienic surroundings, occupation and habits. The European investigator points out that the electricity artificially permeates the "irradiating atmosphere and that a person brought in contact with it, day after day, must have a great constitution to withstand its effects. Weak persons even may suffer from aggravated forms of nervous disorder by the wireless process, he asserts.

When the European physician announced the discovery of wireless toothache he was scoffed at by other doctors, who had not studied the question as he had. The discovery, however, is being regarded seriously on both sides of the Atlantic, and skilled minds are seeking to discover what other ailments may be caused by such high tension currents being loose in the air.

It is recalled the X-ray affects the skin and tissues insidiously and often disastrously. Nor is it any secret that persons who are compelled to pass long periods in rooms where big dynamos are in operation frequently show neurotic tendencies. Physicians who use the ultra-violet, high tension and other forms of electricity in treatment often suffer neurotic affections. These things indicate, it is suggested, that disease producing qualities lurk in electricity of which little is known as yet. Third rails, live trolley wires, telephone and telegraph wires and other agencies are discharging into the air constantly currents of electricity which pass through persons in the streets and elsewhere, and there are physicians who fear that as the use of electricity increases, wireless telegraphy and telephony get in full swing, wireless toothache will be

merely one of a long list of nervous diseases directly traceable to excess of electricity in the atmosphere.

## TELLS OF MAGELLAN'S TRIP

Story of Voyage Around World, Nearly 400 Years Ago, Has Just Been Published by a German.

The Hague.—Although nearly four hundred years have elapsed since Magellan sailed around the world, the true history of the voyage has been published for the first time. Until recently no published document relating to the expedition had ever been found, though it was known that an account had been written by the Portuguese, Fearando Oliveira, because a later writer of the same nationality quoted briefly from that work.

Recently the long lost document was discovered in the University of Leyden library by the German historian, Herr Vogel, who immediately published a German translation of it in the Marine Rundschau. Besides interesting particulars as to ship construction in those days, the document contains the whole story of the first voyage around the world by Magellan.

Certain indications make it probable that the actual writer of the account was a companion of the discoverer. "As one of the oldest geographical papers extant it is considered to be of almost priceless value."

## RATS EAT REVENUE STAMPS

Mystery That Puzzled United States Officials for Several Weeks at Ft. Wayne Is Solved.

Fort Wayne, Ind.—The activity of a colony of rats explains the repeated disappearance of revenue stamps from barrels of beer shipped to Avilla, north of this city, and clears up a mystery which has given United States internal revenue officers in Fort Wayne much concern.

The first complaint, received several weeks ago, was that six barrels of beer in a railroad warehouse at Avilla, swatling delivery to the consignee, had been stripped of revenue stamps. The government authorities and Deputy Collector L. F. Sharp conducted an examination. He was unable to solve the mystery and with much red tape the missing stamps were replaced.

The revenue office was notified of the second case the other day, but with it came the information that rats had been discovered at the work, and apparently had been attracted by the paste used on the stamps.

\$200,000,000 Worth of Clay.

Albany, N. Y.—The clay beds of New York state are worth more than \$200,000,000, according to a report by John H. Clarke, the state geologist. Last year's output of brick, tile, terra cotta, pottery and other materials reached an aggregate of \$11,500,000. The number of building brick manufactured during the 12 months was nearly 1,500,000,000.

## GREEK GIRLS ARE SHIELDED

Inside Facts on Criminal Cases That Never Reached Public—Heart Interest Stories Untold.

Chicago.—"If settlement workers and juvenile court attaches were called upon to testify or if what they learn indirectly of criminal cases were admissible as evidence, many persons who go free would be convicted and many others who are convicted would be shown clemency."

This is the statement of a worker in one of the best known, if not the most prominent, settlement houses in Chicago. It was brought forth by a recent criminal case in which a man who killed his former friend was freed.

"We get more 'heart interest' stories in a year than the newspapers could print in two years," the woman continued. "In a recent murder case the principals were Greeks. A young man who had come to America to make his way was killed by a husband whose wife accused the other man of attempting to persuade her to elope."

"The murder in itself was tragic enough, but what I learned of the murdered man's affairs was worse than tragic. He was engaged to a beautiful girl who resides in Athens, Greece, and soon he was to send for her to come here to be married to him and make her home in this country. In working on the case I learned that this girl will never know the fate of her sweetheart. It is a custom of the Greeks, when a man is killed in an affair of this kind, to shield the girl to whom he is engaged."

"According to Chicago Greeks with whom I talked, the fiancée of the man who was killed here will be told that

he has disappeared and everything will be done to take her mind off her trouble. But the fact that he was accused of being disloyal to her and that he met death as a result never will be known by her."

## PETROL MADE DRIVER DRUNK

Chauffeur, in Charge of Motor Car, Pleaded That Fumes and Not Whisky, Intoxicated Him.

London.—A chauffeur named Chas. Rice, who was accused of being intoxicated while in charge of a motor car, pleaded that petrol fumes and not whisky were responsible for his condition.

It was alleged that while he was driving along Herrow road at a speed of 23 miles an hour his motor car came into collision with a hansom. The cab driver was thrown from his seat, and turning a somersault, fell on his back, but Rice drove on for a third of a mile before he was stopped.

"I only had two glasses of whisky," said Rice, "and what the policemen thought were the effects of alcohol were due to the fumes from the petrol. Just before the accident I had to blow some of the tubes, and I inhaled the fumes."

Mr. P. Lewin, managing director of Riswell's limited, a large taxicab concern, says Rice was a sober man, and corroborated his statement regarding the effects of the fumes.

"They make you giddy," he declared, "and give you the appearance of being intoxicated. I have often suffered from them, and I have to sit down until the effects pass off. You can be overpowered by them."